

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 1 as shown below. Please add new claims 32-35.

1. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene, having:

- i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel, or
- ii) a fragment ~~thereof~~, within i),

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprising comprises nucleotide elements having a cis-regulatory activity that promotes transcription and tissue-specific expression of the murine villin gene.

2. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

3. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence identified as Seq ID NO:1.

4. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises the nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase I-hypersensitive sites.

5. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, comprising a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS IV Dnase-hypersensitive site to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene.

6. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 upstream from the transcription initiation site, to the translation initiation site.

7. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a 9 kb nucleotide fragment extending from a -3.5 kb nucleotide sequence upstream from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site (ATG) which includes the transcription initiation site and a 5.5 kb intron.

8. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence, to the translation initiation site.

9. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is the sequence extending 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site, provided the region corresponding to intron 1, located between said sites, is deleted or deleted in part.

10. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is mutated by deletion of one or several nucleotides, within the nucleotide fragment of 5.5 kb corresponding to intron 1 extending from position 47 starting from the transcription initiation site, provided that said mutation does not affect the presence of the HS II Dnase I-hypersensitive site.

11. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.

12. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 1, which is obtained from the nucleotide sequence of the murine villin gene having a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel and extending 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site and 5.5 kb downstream from said site, or a fragment thereof, said nucleotide sequence or fragment thereof having a regulatory activity on the level of expression of the murine villin gene in intestine cells and/or in transgenic mice.

13-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene having

i) a size of 9 kb on an agarose gel; or

ii) a fragment of i), wherein said fragment is selected from the group consisting of

(a) a nucleotide fragment extending 3.5 kb upstream from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site, provided the region corresponding to intron 1 located between said sites is deleted;

(b) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive sites;

(c) a nucleotide fragment extending from the HS I to the HS IV Dnase-I hypersensitive site to the translation initiation site of the murine villin gene;

(d) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -100 from the transcription initiation site to the translation initiation site; and

(e) a nucleotide fragment extending from the nucleotide at position -480 from the transcription initiation sequence to the translation initiation site;

wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotide elements having cis-regulatory activity that promote the transcription of the murine villin gene.

33. (New) An isolated nucleotide sequence obtained from the 5' sequence of a murine villin gene which is the sequence extending 5.5 kb upstream and 3.5 kb downstream from the transcription initiation site of the murine villin gene.

34. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 33, which is the sequence identified as SEQ ID NO:1.

35. (New) The isolated nucleotide sequence according to claim 32, which comprises nucleotide regions having a regulatory activity affecting the level of expression of the murine villin gene.